

Appl. No. 10/676,452
Amdt. Dated 10/25/04
Reply to Office Action of 7/26/04

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. Claims 1-2, 7-8, and 12-13 have been amended to correct the informal errors objected to by the examiner in paragraphs 1a-c on page 2 of the office action. Applicant has also reviewed the specification in detail and believes no minor errors exist therein.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,102,397 to Lee et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,190,285 to Levy et al. The examiner has objected to claims 6 and 10, but will allow such claims if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant has canceled dependent claims 6 and 10 from the originally filed claims. Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended such that they include the dictionary means recited in canceled claims 6 and 10.

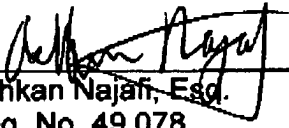
Neither Lee et al. nor any prior art of record discloses a dictionary means being connectable to a port for providing data definitions and verifying data values required by independent claim 12 and amended independent claims 1 and 7.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims should be considered as no longer tenable with respect to the currently amended independent claims 1 and 7. All pending dependent claims necessarily include the recitations of their independent claims and therefore are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,
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